



Flathead Conservation District
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CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the March 27, 2017, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Cynthia Ingelfinger and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Tiffany Martin, Big Sky Watershed Corps, River Steward.

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2017, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Montana Ag Summit, Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls, May 31 – June 1. Register at www.agsummitmontana.com
 2. Email: Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) 223 Mini Education grants applications due April 26. Contact Linda Brander, DNRC, 406-444-0520
 3. Email: March 15, 2017 issue of *The Montana Conservationist*, www.swcdmi.org
 4. Email: Letter from Cascade CD regarding Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) dues and membership
 5. Email: Letter from Lewis & Clark Conservation District regarding MACD.
 6. Email: DNRC Range Improvement Loan Program. This is a low interest loan available to producers to help facilitate Range Improvements. The current rate is 3%, maximum loan is \$75,000 up to 10 year repayment schedule. Contact Bill Herbolich, DNRC 444-6686, or Stacey Barta, Rangeland Resource Program Coordinator, 406-930-0693 sbarta@mt.gov, <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/rangeland-resource-program> OR <https://www.facebook.com/MontanaRangeProgram>
 7. Email: DNRC report regarding 310 permit statistics for all of Montana Conservation Districts.
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8. Email: Montana Joint Mussel Response Team news updates & news - *New Rules approved for boats at Tiber and Canyon Ferry* - <http://musselresponse.mt.gov>
9. Email: MACD March 17, 2017 issue of *News from the Front* macdnet.org
10. Email: McCone Conservation District April newsletter *Conservation News* www.mcconecountycd.com
11. Email: April 2017 issue of Flathead Audubon Society newsletter *Pileated Post* www.flatheadaudubon.org
12. Email: Vacancy Announcement, Boat Check Station Staff, Culbertson, MT. [http://swcdm.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2015/12/VACANCY-ANNOUNCEMENT BoatInspector.pdf](http://swcdm.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2015/12/VACANCY-ANNOUNCEMENT%20BoatInspector.pdf)

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$262.25
2. MontanaSky Networks Inc. \$20.00
3. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1545.56

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: Discussion held. Johns Ellis made a motion “to give each scholarship applicant \$2000.00.” Mark Sideirus seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS: Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion “to adopt the resolution to transfer funds into the CIP fund.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET: The February 2017 End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the February 2017 End of Month Report.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, submitted the SNOTEL Report for March 27th.

STAFF REPORT: Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger submitted the following report:
Cost-Share Program: Current contracts: Valerie received an update from one landowner who may not be able to complete everything in his project by May 1st because of the late spring. She is checking on the status of the other contracts.
Next year: We have received three inquiries about the program for the upcoming fiscal year.



District Office and Outreach

1. March advertisements: Cost share program & sandbagging 310; Cynthia is working with Andrew to get a 310 advertisement in the summer magazine issue.
2. We continue to facilitate communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don MacIntyre, Caitlin Overland, and the representatives for the landowner and the complainants in regard to the Stalowy 310. The public hearing was held on March 6th, at 6:00 PM at the Red Lion Hotel in Kalispell. Additional exhibits were submitted at the hearing and added to the file. The Hearing Officer received the transcript on March 21st, and he has 60 days from then to release his findings.
3. Cynthia attended the Haskill Basin Watershed Council meeting on March 8.
4. Valerie attended the Forestry Expo planning meeting on March 21st.
5. Valerie did Ginger Kauffman's annual performance evaluation on March 21st.
6. Cynthia and Valerie did a follow-up inspection for the North Shore Nordic Club 310-permit.

Education

Rolling Rivers - Cynthia is reviewing the Rolling Rivers Trailer curriculum and has spoken with Summit Prep school about a visit in June. We are also planning to do presentations at Hedges school in May.

Partner events - Cynthia has been coordinating dates for education and outreach events later this spring with partners at Whitefish Legacy Partners, Whitefish Lake Institute, and Flathead Lakers, as well as an activity for Arbor Day.

Project Learning Tree - Cynthia is working with Holly McKenzie on a PLT Spring into Nature Educator Workshop on Saturday, April 8 9-4pm. We have developed a flyer, agenda, and registration form.

Other - Cynthia attended a brainstorming meeting hosted by USFS and GNP about bringing the Forest for Every Classroom teacher training program to the Flathead in 2018. Cynthia and Valerie were judges at the Flathead County Science Fair.

Legislative: Valerie continues to relay legislative updates from MACD to the board and staff.

River Steward/River to Lake Initiative (R2L): Valerie and Cynthia attended the R2L meeting, and Valerie attended the River Steward meeting (both on March 15th). There was an introduction to the recently-updated Flathead Audubon wetland education trunk at the R2L meeting. The River Steward partners discussed spring projects. The River Steward restoration video, initiated by Constanza von der Pahlen last summer and filmed last fall, is complete and widely available.

Scholarships

Camps - Cynthia worked with Glacier Institute to get information about the camp scholarships on their website. She also put up flyers at valley schools about the Natural Resource Camp and our camp scholarship program. Expo flyers were distributed at the same time.

College - Cynthia contacted career counselors at local high schools about the low scholarship application numbers. A few more students were interested but missed the deadline. We are considering changing the deadline and essay question next year.



Seedling Program: We continue to receive new seedling orders and program inquiries, despite the dwindling inventory at the DNRC Conservation Nursery. We have received 8 orders, and they will be delivered on April 20th.

Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP): Valerie is completing the final review and edits of the WRP.

Website: Cynthia updated the theme on the website and posted three new blogs (River Steward Video, Camp Scholarship, Sandbagging 310) and added content to the Watershed Restoration page and Additional Resources page.

Weed Workshop: The March 1st Weed Management Workshop had about 30 attendees, but it was well received and the audience was engaged and interested. We have had 3 people call since then inquiring about the event and asking to have information mailed or emailed to them.

MACD REPORT: John Ellis reported the MACD Dues Committee held a conference call with good attendance from other conservation districts. No decisions were made.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: The next meeting will be held April 12th in Kalispell.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported the meeting agenda included short term rental housing zoning permits, a zone change request from Patti Seaman Homes, and discussion regarding Whitefish donut zoning.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported the meeting agenda included conditional use permits, rezoning and new buildings.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: Cynthia Ingelfinger reported the meeting agenda included the Haskill Basin culvert and access issues.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: Mark Siderius reported the meeting agenda included a discussion with Energy Keepers regarding KERR dam operations. The Flood Level meeting and the Flood Inundation meeting are both April 12th.

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL: No report.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- Family Forestry Expo, May 1-5
- Staff Training

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Dean Sirucek made a motion “to adjourn.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

(Date)

(Signature)

(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

